CLAIMS

1. A holding ring for holding an optical element for dip treatment thereof, the ring comprising a hoop for draining and encircling the edge of the optical element, forming an arc over more than 180° and provided at each of its two ends with an outwardly-directed drip tab.

2. A ring according to the preceding claim, in which the hoop presents an inside face in contact with the edge of the optical element, which inside face is longitudinally continuous to the second order.

3. A ring according to the preceding claim, in which each drip tab presents an inside face extending the inside face of the hoop with longitudinal continuity to the second order.

4. A ring according to any preceding claim, in which the hoop forms an arc lying in the range 250° to 280°.

5. A ring according to the preceding claim, in which the ring forms an arc of 250° to within 10%.

6. A ring according to any preceding claim, in which the hoop is elastically flexible.

7. A ring according to any preceding claim, in which the free ends of the drip tabs are chamfered.

8. A ring according to any preceding claim, in which the hoop is constituted by a section member of section that presents an inside for contacting the optical element, an outside, and two lateral sides, at least one of the inside and the outside of the section of the hoop connecting to the lateral sides via sharp angles.

9. A ring according to the preceding claim, in which at least one of the inside and the outside of the section of the hoop has a setback formed therein.

10. A ring according to any preceding claim, in which the encircling arc presents an outside face possessing two diametrically opposite striated holding portions.